

REMARKS

This paper amends previously rejected claim 18, corrects typographical errors in claims 23 and 24, and adds new claims 29-34. Claims 1-17 have previously been cancelled. Claims 18 and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In view of the present amendment, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that, in an earlier paper filed on September 20, 2011 and entered into the record, claims 22-28 were added, but that these claims have not yet been examined; examination of the previously added claims and newly-added claims 29-34 is respectfully requested.

Support for the current amendment can be found throughout the published specification, including ¶¶ [0033] and [0037] - [0041]. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 18 and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Frisch et al. (4,447,237) and Merrill et al. (3,673,612) in view of Steigerwald (5,009,391). This paper amends claim 18 to recite that the flexible member includes a “plurality of peripheral flexible membranes stacked on opposing sides of a central flexible membrane.” Applicants respectfully submit that none of Frisch et al., Merrill et al., or Steigerwald, nor any other prior art references of record, disclose or even suggest the structure claimed in claim 18 as amended. Accordingly, the amendment is believed to overcome the rejection of claim 18 and claims 20-21, which depend therefrom, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (617) 951-8753 so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4047 (7061772001).

Respectfully submitted,

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